[0016] Repeat use of reference characters in the present specification and drawings is intended to represent the same or analogous features or elements of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] It is to be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the present discussion is a description of exemplary aspects only, and is not intended as limiting the broader aspects of the present disclosure.

[0018] The present disclosure is generally directed to training systems for absorbent articles that indicate to a user when a body fluid has insulted the article. For example, in one aspect, the training system is designed to provide a tactile cue when urine is deposited in the absorbent article.

[0019] In accordance with the present disclosure, the training system can have various configurations and designs. Referring to FIGS. **1** and **2**, for exemplary purposes, an absorbent article **20** that can be used in conjunction with training systems of the present disclosure is shown. The absorbent article **20** can be disposable or not. It is understood that the present disclosure is suitable for use with various other absorbent articles intended for personal wear, including but not limited to diapers, training pants, swim pants, feminine hygiene products, incontinence products, medical garments, surgical pads and bandages, other personal care or health care garments, and the like without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

[0020] The methods and apparatus of the present disclosure can be used to make a variety of pre-fastened articles such as disposable absorbent articles including diapers, training pants, feminine hygiene products, incontinence products, medical garments, other personal care or health care garments, swim pants, athletic clothing, pants and shorts, and the like. More particularly, the methods and apparatus of the present disclosure can be used to make articles in which at least two elements of the article are connected together during the making thereof to assemble or "pre-fasten" the article. For ease of explanation, the methods and apparatus of the present disclosure are hereafter described in connection with making pre-fastened child's pants, generally indicated as **20** in FIG. **1**. In particular, the methods and apparatus will be described in terms of those for making pre-fastened disposable pants as described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/444,083 titled "Absorbent Articles With Refastenable Side Seams" and filed Nov. 22, 1999 (corresponding to PCT application WO 00/37009 published Jun. 29, 2000) by A. L. Fletcher et al., the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Absorbent article **20** can also be constructed using the methods and apparatus disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,940,464 issued Jul. 10, 1990 to Van Gompel et al.; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,766,389 issued Jun. 16, 1998 to Brandon et al.; the disclosures of which are also incorporated herein by reference.

[0021] It should be understood that as used herein, the term "component" includes not only discrete objects, but also objects yet to be formed into discrete objects (e.g., objects yet to be severed into discrete objects from a continuous sheet or web of material), particles (e.g., superabsorbent particles or polymers), adhesives, lotions, ointments, and other substances, as well as portions or characteristics of any such components including, for example, fold lines, bond lines (e.g., ultrasonic bond lines), bonded or adhered regions, and registration marks applied to or about components for subsequent detection during a manufacturing or inspection process.

[0022] With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to FIG. **1**, an absorbent article **20** is illustrated in a partially fastened condition and includes an absorbent chassis **32** having a front waist region **22**, a back waist region **24**, a crotch region **26** interconnecting the front and back waist regions **22**,**24**, an inner surface **28** that is configured to contact the wearer, and an outer surface **30** opposite the inner surface and configured to contact the wearer's clothing. With additional reference to FIGS. **2** and **3**, the absorbent chassis **32** also has a pair of laterally opposite side edges **36** and a pair of longitudinally opposite waist edges, respectively designated front waist edge **38** and back waist edge **39**. The front waist region **22** is contiguous with the front waist edge **38**, and the back waist region **24** is contiguous with the back waist edge **39**.

[0023] The illustrated absorbent chassis **32** includes a composite structure **33** (FIGS. **2** and **3**), which when laid flat can be rectangular or any other desired shape, and has a pair of laterally opposite front side panels **34** and a pair of laterally opposite back side panels **134** extending outwardly therefrom.

[0024] The composite structure **33** and side panels **34**, **134** can include two or more separate elements, as shown in FIG. **1**, or be integrally formed. Integrally formed side panels **34**, **134** and composite structure **33** would include at least some common materials, such as the bodyside liner, flap composite, outer cover, other materials and/or combinations thereof, and could define a one-piece elastic, stretchable, or non-stretchable pants. The illustrated composite structure **33** includes an outer cover **40**, a bodyside liner **42** (FIGS. **1** and **3**) connected to the outer cover in a superposed relation, an absorbent assembly **44** (FIG. **3**) disposed between the outer cover and the bodyside liner, and a pair of containment flaps **46** (FIG. **3**). The illustrated composite structure **33** has opposite ends **45** (FIGS. **2** and **3**) that form portions of the front and back waist edges **38** and **39**, and opposite side edges **47** that form portions of the side edges **36** of the absorbent chassis **32** (FIGS. **2** and **3**).

[0025] For reference, arrows **48** and **49** (FIGS. **2** and **3**) depict the orientation of the longitudinal axis and the transverse or lateral axis, respectively, of the absorbent article **20**.

[0026] With the absorbent article **20** in the fastened position as partially illustrated in FIG. **1**, the front and back side panels **34**, **134** are connected together by a fastening system **80** to define a three-dimensional pants configuration having an interior space **51**, a waist opening **50** for receiving the wearer into the interior space **51** of the absorbent article **20**, a pair of leg openings **52** and engagement seams **88** along which the side panels **34**, **134** are connected. The interior space **51** of the absorbent article **20** is thus bounded by the absorbent chassis **32**, the engagement seams **88** and the portions of the side panels **34**, **134** extending on opposite sides of the engagement seams **88** (e.g., between the engagement seams **88** and the absorbent chassis **32**). As used herein, the "interior space" **51** is intended to refer to the space between any two portions of a three-dimensional article that generally oppose each other. It is understood that a transverse cross-section of the article need not be closed, e.g., continuous, to define the interior space **51**. For example, a two-dimensional article can be generally folded over on itself so that two portions of the article oppose each other to define an interior space of the article therebetween. Thus, the interior space **51** of the absorbent article **20** shown in FIG. **1** can be defined by the side panels **34**, **134** themselves or, if the side panels are fully straightened therebetween, the interior space is defined by a